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SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. RICHARD HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/ANZ - FRANK C. BENNETT, JR.

AUSTRALIA

1. AUSTRALIAN BEEF. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY EXPRESSED TO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ JULY 28 THE GOA'S OPPOSITION TO
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EFFORTS IN CONGRESS TO RESTRAIN BEEF IMPORTS WITH A
COUNTERCYCLICAL LAW. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN DRAGGING ITS FEET ON THE ATTEMPT OF
EB AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO DECLARE ANEW THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH OPPOSITION TO A TOUGH COUNTERCYCLICAL BILL. WE
HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY THAT AN ALLEGED PRESIDENTIAL
STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN

BEEF IMPORTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL STILL NOT BE A REALLOCATION OF THE EXISTING SHORTFALL IN IMPORTS UNDER THE REVISED BEEF QUOTAS, HOWEVER. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. TRANET. AFTER MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING, A CABLE WAS FINALLY SENT OUT TO CANBERRA YESTERDAY (AUG 1) ANSWERING THE REMAINING QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN DOD REGARDING THE TRANSIT SATELLITE STATION AT SMITHFIELD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA. THIS STATION, ESTABLISHED BY THE US NAVY IN 1961 AND OPERATED BY THE GOA SINCE 1971, HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONING. ADOD SENT US A DETAILED LIST OF QUESTIONS REGARDING NEW EQUIPMENT THAT THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY INTENDS TO INSTALL AT SMITHFIELD NEXT FISCAL YEAR, PRESUMABLY TO BE IN A POSITION TO ANSWER QUERIES BASED ON DATA RELEASED TO THE U.S. CONGRESS AND PICKED UP BY THOSE IN AUSTRALIA WHO OPPOSE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATION IN STRATEGIC DEFENSE SYSTEMS. WE ARE INFORMING THE GOA THAT DMA HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO CONGRESS IN UNCLASSIFIED TABLES BUDGETARY INFORMATION THAT COULD ESTABLISH A LINK BETWEEN TRANET AND STRATEGIC TARGETING IN ADDITION TO ITS OTHER, NON-MILITARY FUNCTIONS. (SECRET/NOFORN)

3. AZURIN CASE. IN THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON POST, DAN OBERDORFER REPORTED JOSELITO AZURIN'S DECLARATION OF HIS INTENTION TO SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF
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A FALLING OUT WITH THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT. PHILIPPINE DCM BELASARIO REPORTEDLY TOLD OBERDORFER THAT AZURIN'S CASE IS "PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE, NOT POLITICAL," AND THAT HIS RECALL WAS AT THE GOA'S REQUEST. AZURIN IS QUOTED AS CLAIMING HE KNOWS OF NO SUCH REQUEST AND STATING THAT THE PROTOCOL CHIEF AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPT HAD DENIED A REQUEST FOR HIS RECALL (APPARENTLY SOME TIME AGO) "FOLLOWING A CONTROVERSY INVOLVING HIS DEFENSE OF FILIPINO MAIDS EMPLOYED IN CANBERRA". AZURIN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HIS DECISION TO SEEK ASYLUM WAS THE RESULT OF CONFLICTS WITH THE INCOMING PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA AND, DISGUST AT MARCOS' MANIPULATION OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES. "I HAVE BEEN BOTHERED BY MY CONSCIENCE," HE REPORTEDLY SAID. (UNCLASSIFIED)

CHRIS SQUIRE TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT A CHECK OF EMBASSY FILES INDICATES AZURIN OBTAINED A B-2 DIPLOMATIC VISA FROM THE EMBASSY ON MAY 21, ISSUANCE OF WHICH IS GENERALLY PRO FORMA. AS YOU KNOW, ON JUNE 28 CHRIS WAS SUMMONED TO A CANBERRA HOSPITAL TO SEE AZURIN WHO REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM CLAIMING THAT HE WAS BEING ASKED TO RETURN TO MANILA SOONER THAN CUSTOMARY AND, STATING THAT THIS WOULD INTER-

FERE WITH HIS CHILDRENS' SCHOOLING AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO PAY OFF CERTAIN DEBTS. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID HE WAS BEING "FALSELY" CHARGED WITH HAVING SIGNED CUSTOMS INVOICES FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR WHICH WAS LATER SOLD

ILLEGALLY. HIS REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN WITH THE DEPT'S CONCURRENCE, BUT LAST SUNDAY AZURIN TOOK FLIGHT FROM SYDNEY, LEAVING HIS FAMILY BEHIND, AND IS NOW IN WASHINGTON IN THE CARE OF RAUL MANGLAPUS AND CHARITA PLANAS. EA/PHL IS HANDLING THIS MATTER WITH OUR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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4. MEIER EXTRADITION CASE. MEIER, WHOSE CASE WE AND PIA HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING FOR WEEKS, LEFT AUSTRALIA FOR JAPAN AFTER AN AUSTRALIAN JUDGE RULED THAT MEIER COULD NOT BE ARRESTED DUE TO HIS POSSESSION OF A TONGAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC VISA. SO LONG AS MEIER REMAINS IN JAPAN, HE CANNOT BE EXTRADITED TO THE US BECAUSE HIS CRIMES ARE NOT COVERED BY THE US-JAPAN TREATY. IN THE MEANTIME, OUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN WELLINGTON, DICK DOLS, HAS VISITED TONGA TO BRIEF THE KING AND HIS GOVERNMENT ON THE CASE. HE LEARNED THAT THE CHARTER FOR THE BANK MEIER WISHED TO ESTABLISH THERE WILL NOT BE APPROVED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE KING INFORMED DOLS THAT MEIER'S TONGAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT HAS BEEN REVOKED, MEANING THAT SHOULD MEIER RETURN TO AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVISIONALLY ARREST AND PROSECUTE HIM. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. WELLINGTON'S CAP. WE MET WITH COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVES AUGUST 1 TO REVIEW EMBASSY WELLINGTON'S COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM SUBMISSION FOR FY 79 AND WILL BE TRANSMITTING OUR COMMENTS TO THE POST SHORTLY. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. VISIT OF KIWI NEWSMAN. BARRY JORDAN, A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE RADIO NEW ZEALAND NEWS STAFF, WAS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AND INTERVIEWED DAS OAKLEY ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. JORDAN WAS ORIGINALLY SLATED TO INTERVIEW DAS COLBERT FOR AN ICA VIDEO TAPE BUT HER ILLNESS PREVENTED IT. JIM FELDMAN, ICA/EA, AND I BOTH THOUGHT THE OAKLEY INTERVIEW WENT OFF VERY WELL. JIM INTENDS TO RESCHEDULE THE VTR. (UNCLASSIFIED) VANCE

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